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AMICUS

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY RALPH R. PAPITTO SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI NEWS

SPRING 2005



A 'Value Added' Legal Education

Roger Williams Takes Learning Out of the Classroom

AMICUS

Vol. 4 No. 1

Spring 2005



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Ralph R. Papitto School of Law

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Mark W. Gemma '97
President,
Law Alumni Association

I am honored to be writing to you as President of Roger Williams University School of Law's Alumni Association. Since becoming the Alumni Association's President, I have grown increasingly impressed by the great things happening at our law school.

The number of applications for incoming students at RWU Law has never been higher, and is increasing each year at a pace that is well above the national average. This trend has allowed our law school to admit a greater number of students each year; yet the acceptance of more law students has not decreased the quality of the student body. The median LSAT score and grade point average of first year student's has skyrocketed without showing any signs of leveling off.

In reviewing the positive developments at RWU School of Law, I must also mention the recent hiring of Assistant Dean Anthony L. Bastone II, who is now heading the Office of Career Services. Shortly after coming to RWU from the University of Colorado School of Law, Dean Bastone held the law school's first Legal Career Options Day. The event brought to campus prospective employers from Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Many of the area's best private firms, public interest firms, and members of the Rhode Island judiciary mingled with hundreds of students in an event unlike any other in the law school's history.

As for me, I have spent much of my time as President on the phone with our alumni in an effort to raise money for the law school's annual fund. I am pleased to report after a relatively short period of fundraising, our overall alumni giving percentage has already broken all past records. I encourage anyone who has not given to please do in an effort to continue and increase the excellence that RWU has achieved. All who are willing to give may contact me at mark@gemmalaw.com or contact the school directly. I look forward to hearing from you.



David A. Logan
Dean and Professor of Law

"VALUE ADDED"

It is interesting to reflect on what has changed and what has remained the same in the dozen years since The Roger Williams University School of Law opened its doors in 1993.

Because of the small number of teacher/scholars who made up the founding faculty, the early curriculum was heavy on core, bar courses and relatively light on electives. Today, students still primarily study "the legal canon," but they also can choose from a dizzying array of other subjects, from "Maritime Practice and Procedure" to "Grand Juries," while expanding their horizons by studying comparative law in London and Lisbon in the summer.

There have also been many new ways for students to enrich their educations outside the traditional classroom. Perhaps best known are three terrific clinics that provide the intensive, hands-on experience from representing real clients with real problems. Students also have an array of other opportunities to spread their wings, some for credit (like the "Medical-Legal Collaborative" and the judicial and public interest externships coordinated by the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service), while others arise in conjunction with our mandatory pro bono requirement.

Co-curricular life has changed as well. Students in our earliest classes could be involved with important organizations like the *Roger Williams Law Review* and Moot Court Board. Today the options include the Multi-Cultural Law Students Association, Environmental Law Society, and the Association of Public Interest Law. Added to these on-going opportunities are a host of specialized programs: in recent months, nationally-known scholars and practitioners have come to campus to discuss topics like freedom of religion in the post-9/11 world, the status of minority lawyers in the legal profession, and the use (and misuse) of science in the law.

RWU students benefit immeasurably from the close relationship the School of Law has with the judiciary. Examples abound: the Rhode Island Supreme Court regularly comes to campus to judge the final rounds of our Esther Clark Memorial Moot Court Competition, and Chief United States District Judge Ernest Torres took the unusual step of actually trying a case in the School of Law Courtroom, the same place where the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit will hear arguments on April 6.

Read on to learn more about how these and other enhancements provide real "value-added" to our students.



Marine Affairs Institute

Innovative Law & Policy: Leasing and Ownership of Submerged Lands

By Kristen M. Fletcher, Director,
Marine Affairs Institute and Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program

From kelp beds to estuarine marshes to coral reefs, submerged lands in the U.S. contain significant and under-recognized elements of marine biodiversity. That diversity is under siege. Most of the U.S. population live or recreate near the coast, which contributes to the loss of habitat for fish, marine mammals, and shorebirds, to the decline in commercial fisheries and shellfish harvests, and to the loss of ecological services, such as reducing erosion and improving water clarity and quality. The recently issued U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report highlights these threats and reveals that the management scheme is ailing as well: governmental agencies often have overlapping jurisdictions and competing mandates in coastal waters and few are taking a holistic approach to managing submerged lands. With these constraints in mind, coastal managers and policy-makers are seeking innovative methods to conserve submerged lands.

It is commonly assumed that tools for submerged lands conservation must be substantially different from those for terrestrial conservation – in part because it is not possible to own parts of the ocean or to exclude areas from certain

historic users. However, there is significant submerged land available for lease and ownership in U.S. waters. For example, RWU holds experimental aquaculture leases for scientific research in Mount Hope Bay; marinas and other users hold leases for use of state submerged lands; and some private landowners own submerged lands off the coast, often as a result of pre-statehood land grants.

The Nature Conservancy has been developing and implementing strategies for the conservation of submerged marine lands through leasing and ownership. To date, The Conservancy has submerged lands projects in New York (Peconic and Great South Bay), Washington (one existing, another being developed), and Texas, involving both submerged lands in which The Conservancy owns the fee title interest and projects in which The Conservancy is leasing submerged lands. To better understand the legal and policy implications of their strategy, The Conservancy partnered with the Marine Affairs Institute at RWU School of Law to conduct legal analysis of submerged lands ownership and leasing.

The research focused on three possible forms of rights to submerged lands:

leases of submerged lands from states; limited ownership of submerged lands sold by states; and outright ownership (in fee simple) of lands conveyed into private ownership prior to statehood. All coastal states allow some leasing in their waters as a tool to manage coastal activities and maximize economic benefits to the public. Often, the leasing of state submerged lands requires some ‘productive use’ which typically includes shellfish leases or the placement of a structure for mineral extraction. Most privately owned submerged lands were sold by the states or acquired prior to statehood. In many cases, although the private owner may hold title to the submerged lands, the state retains some rights, including rights of access and navigation.

Reactions to using these tools for conservation include excitement about fee title ownership and leasing approaches and potential long-term management of submerged lands, mixed with caution about restricting other uses under the Public Trust Doctrine and implications of “paying” for marine conservation through such an approach.

Our legal analysis resulted in several key findings.

- Leasing and ownership of submerged lands can be significant tools for conservation organizations, land trusts, and other private entities to achieve conservation goals. Use of these tools can help states provide balance in their existing authorizations for uses of the marine environment.
- Conservation leasing and ownership are supported within the traditional Public Trust Doctrine. States have used leasing and ownership to meet their Public Trust Doctrine responsibilities and they can also use leasing to meet their environmental mandates. It appears that potential conflicts are based less in law or policy than on faulty perception.
- Current state policy often requires that leaseholders make “productive use” of their lands. The common perception is that while restoration is a productive use, conservation and preservation are not. This distinction must be recognized for implementation of current projects and should be changed for future projects. Productive use differs state by state but traditionally has been associated with a direct activity on the land, such as the placement of aquaculture pens or marine



pilings. Even though it is clear that conservation leasing and ownership can be used for a range of activities, such as monitoring, it may be more acceptable for a leaseholder to engage in active restoration as opposed to apparently passive preservation.

- The selection of sites and the use of all tools for marine conservation and management should be guided by overarching management plans that recognize the regional ecosystem context of marine resources and diversity. Increasing uses and other threats to the marine environment challenge managers to find innovative ways to protect these rich resources. Thus, leasing and ownership should be considered as one part of a marine conservation toolbox to address increasingly significant threats to the nation's marine habitats.

The joint Conservancy – RWU Marine Affairs Institute report is available at marineaffairs@rwu.edu.

Professor Horwitz honored with Community Service Award

Professor Andrew Horwitz was presented with the Rhode Island NAACP George S. Lima Community Service Award on November 18, 2004 at the organization's annual banquet. The award was created to honor George S. Lima, a lifetime champion for the civil rights of minorities, the elderly, working people, and children in the northeastern region. Mr. Lima was a past President and Executive Board Member of the NAACP, Providence Branch, and a Rhode Island State Representative for District 83, along with many leadership roles in civil rights organizations.

Professor Horwitz was honored with the award for his commitment and loyalty to the NAACP. In the past, he has represented clients for the NAACP in cases dealing with internal affairs complaints filed against the Providence police department. At the present time, he is helping the NAACP press reforms of the citizen complaint system for police misconduct incidents in Providence. Professor Horwitz was chosen for the award because "he is a positive force for us and he has similar goals and objectives as our organization, which is important," commented Clifford R. Montiero, President of the NAACP-Providence Branch.

"I was honored to get the award," Professor Horwitz remarked. "I don't do this work for recognition, but it is nice when one's hard work is recognized and appreciated."

He added, "This award meant a lot to me. A significant number of my colleagues and administration came to the event and the show of support from them was meaningful to me. It says a lot about the collegiality of the faculty and how truly dedicated the law school is to reach out to the community and to be a productive force for good."



Professor Andrew Horwitz and George S. Lima.



Assistant Dean of Career Services Anthony Bastone, Professor Colleen Murphy, Professor Keeva Terry, and Professor Andrew Horwitz.

A Message from Admissions

By Michael Boylen, Director of Admissions



In the last few years, the School of Law has increased its national diversity. In 1999, only half of the entering class came from outside the Ocean State. Today 80 percent of our entering Day Division class hails from outside of Rhode Island, with one third coming from outside the Northeast altogether.

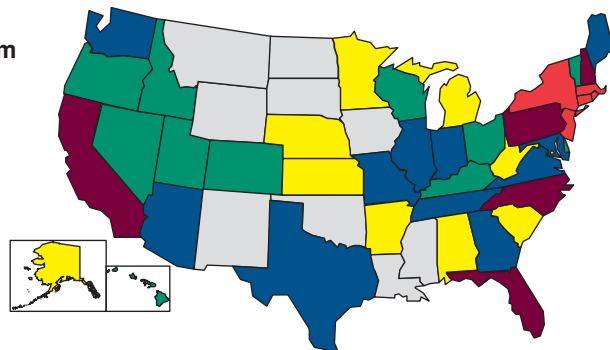
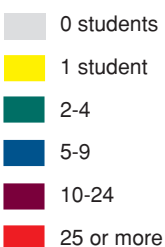
Our halls are filled with New York accents and southern drawls. This year 15 percent of our entering class are from either New York or New Jersey and 11 percent are from the southern portion of the United States. Four students in the

Class of 2007 were living in Hawaii before enrolling at RWU.

In our efforts to enroll a nationally diverse and competitive student body, representatives of the Admissions Office traveled this fall to more than 120 events

in 32 states. Last year, we mailed information to more than 25,000 potential applicants throughout the United States and the world. As students from around the country graduate and return home, our national reputation will continue to strengthen.

Where Our Current Student Body Comes From





New Director of Competitions Named

Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law is pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Larry J. Ritchie to the newly-created position of Frances E. Johnson Director of Competitions.

In this capacity, Professor Ritchie will be responsible for the administration of all external law school forensic competitions, including mock trials and moot court. Professor Ritchie is implementing a selection process for the teams and assigning faculty coaches to fully support the teams. He is working with coaches, faculty, and students to promote the educational and institutional benefits of competitions.

The position was created after Frances Evelyn Johnson '00 made a generous donation to support law school competitions. Johnson sponsored the Roger Williams Law trial team that traveled to the Association of Trial Lawyers of America (ATLA) Student Trial Advocacy National Competition in 2003. The team had an impressive third place finish at nationals. Professor Ritchie said his position was created because "Roger Williams law students do well in trial team competitions, so all competitions should be run with appropriate support from the law school."

Professor Ritchie received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of South Carolina and his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center. During law school, he was an editor for the *South Carolina Law Review*. At Georgetown Law Center, Ritchie was awarded the E. Barrett Prettyman Fellowship in Trial Advocacy. He served as law clerk for the Honorable Clement F. Haynsworth, Jr., Chief Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Minority Mentor Program

By Lydia Hanhardt, Coordinator of Academic Enrichment Programs

The Multicultural Law Student Association (MCLSA) is partnering with the Thurgood Marshall Law Society and the Rhode Island Bar Association Committee on Minority Involvement to offer a mentorship program for current Roger Williams Law students. Student participants are members of the MCLSA and are paired with a lawyer practicing in Rhode Island. Mentors and students participate in networking events and are offered support resources to insure the success of the match.

"The contribution of mentors' valuable time is an investment not just in the success of a single student but also the common goal that we share—making the legal profession, especially in Rhode Island, look more like America," explained Dean David A. Logan. "Student participants benefit from the legal knowledge and experience of all the mentors in the program."

The MCLSA mentorship program is designed to enhance students' academic and professional success.



*Jennie Choy, '07, Providence City Solicitor
Joseph Fernandez, and Morn Phaen, '05.*

"The mentorship program provides an opportunity to gain insight into the practical aspects of the legal profession by coming into contact with people who have experience in the field," said student participant Morn Phaen. The program, which began several years ago, has grown substantially in the last year. It now serves 21 students.

For more information, please contact Lisa Oshiro, MCLSA president, at mclsa@hotmail.com.

New Law Faculty Named



Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law is pleased to announce the appointment of Keeva L. Terry as Associate Professor of Law, effective January 1, 2005. Professor Terry will teach Federal Income Taxation, Contracts, and Sales.

Professor Terry has an A.B. in Economics from Harvard University, a M.B.A. from the University of Michigan, and a J.D. from Columbia University School of Law, where she was an editor of the *Human Rights Law Review*, an Olin Junior Fellow at the Center for Law and Economics, and a member of the executive board of the Black Students Law Association.

After receiving her M.B.A., Terry worked in New York as a tax consultant for Ernst & Young. After graduating from law school in 1998, she became an associate in the Tax, Mergers, and Acquisitions Department at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, also in New York. In 2000 she was selected by the firm to serve for four months as a staff attorney at the Lawyers Alliance for New York, the leading provider of free and low cost business legal services to nonprofit corporations in New York City. She was awarded the firm's Pro Bono Public Service Award for three years in a row. Professor Terry left Skadden, Arps in 2002 and joins the School of Law from Wilmore Equine LLC, in Damascus, Maryland, where she served as in-house counsel. She is a graduate of Classical High School in Providence, R.I. and is admitted to the bars of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Feinstein Institute for Legal Service

National Opportunities for Law Students

By Laurie Barron, Director

A record number of RWU students attended the Equal Justice Works Conference this past October, in Washington, DC, to meet potential employers and attend workshops on fundraising, postgraduate public interest fellowships, and Loan Repayment Assistance Programs. More than 150 employers from dozens of states, including California, Alaska, and Hawaii, attended this conference to network with students.

For the first time ever, the Feinstein Institute and the Office of Career Services arranged for our students to participate in the 2005 Public Interest/Public Service Legal Career Symposium at New York University School of Law in February. The symposium afforded students an opportunity to submit resumes to 185 public interest and government

organizations via a sophisticated online registration system. Public interest lawyers from around the country interviewed students for both summer internships and post-graduate employment. Some 21 law schools from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut participate in this event.

As our alumni base continues to expand around the country, we plan to develop a Public Interest Alumni Mentoring Program. We want to partner students with alumni who share their areas of interest in similar geographic areas.



Left to right: Chief of Police Providence Police Department Dean Esserman, Dean David A. Logan, President Roy J. Nirschel, Director of the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service Laurie Barron, and Director of Public Service and Community Partnerships for the Feinstein Institute Liz Tobin Tyler.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact us. We are working diligently to develop our national presence and we want you to be part of this initiative. Please e-mail our program coordinator Lisa Richmond at Lrichmond@rwu.edu if you would like to be included.

Generous Donation Announced

Leo's Ristorante in Bristol, R.I. has announced a generous \$2,000 gift in immediate support of student educational programs at the Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law.

The gift was announced at the school's First Annual Legal Career Options Day by Dean David A. Logan.

Paul Mancieri, president and owner of Leo's Ristorante, noted, "I want to not only give back, but to grow a relationship with the University that will be mutually beneficial. A scholarship to a deserving student is one of the ways we can do that. The future of Bristol and Roger Williams University School of Law are linked together and we should be working on ways to help each other. Hopefully this is a step in that direction."

Roger Williams University School of Law extends its sincere gratitude to Leo's Ristorante for its support of the school.



Assistant Dean for the Office of Career Services Anthony L. Bastone II and President & Owner of Leo's Ristorante Paul Mancieri.

Reception Celebrating the Appointment of Associate Justice William P. Robinson III

The School of Law celebrated with its honor students the appointment of Associate Justice William P. Robinson III to the Rhode Island Supreme Court, on November 15, 2004 at Linden Place in Bristol, R.I.



Associate Justice William P. Robinson III.

Judges Needed

You be the Judge!

Come one, come all, to help judge the oral arguments of our first-year Legal Methods students from April 11 - 22! The weekday arguments generally start late in the afternoon and go into the early evening, while the Saturday arguments for our extended division students generally begin around mid-morning.

Our students have enjoyed being grilled by our alumni in the past, so we hope you will contact Jenn Carvalho in the Legal Methods department to be appointed (along with any interested colleagues) to one of our benches.

Jenn's telephone number is (401) 254-4626, and her e-mail address is jcarvalho@rwu.edu.



Director of the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service Laurie Barron, Rhode Island Supreme Court Justice Francis X. Flaherty, and Superior Court Associate Justice Daniel Procaccini.

Professor of Law Emily J. Sack



It would be hard to imagine a more auspicious beginning to an academic career than Professor Emily Sack's first three and a half years at the School of Law. She has established herself as an effective and popular teacher, written two impressive law review articles (published in leading journals in American legal education), and made unique contributions to the School of Law in administrative capacities, serving as co-director of our Honors Program and chair of our Clerkship Committee.

Her success comes as no surprise. Professor Sack earned a B.A. in History with High Honors from Swarthmore College, an M.A. in European History from Columbia University, and a J.D. *magna cum laude* from NYU School of Law, where she was Note and Comment editor of the *NYU Law Review* and elected to the Order of the Coif. After graduation she clerked for the Honorable Leonard B. Sand of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, and in 1992 she entered private practice.

When she came to the School of Law in 2001, Professor Sack was already a nationally recognized expert on domestic violence and the court system. As Director of the Center for Court Innovation's Domestic Violence and Family Court Programs in New York, Professor Sack developed the first domestic violence courts, as well as the first felony domestic violence court in the United States. Since her arrival at the School of Law, she has regularly provided technical assistance on domestic violence issues to judges, lawyers, and others involved in the criminal justice system.

Professor Sack teaches Domestic Violence, Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and Family Law. Her course

on Domestic Violence was featured in a 2003 ABA Report entitled, "Incorporating Domestic Violence into Law School Curricula." The report noted that since she began teaching the course, an increasing number of Roger Williams students have fulfilled their *pro bono* graduation requirement by working with a domestic violence victim advocacy organization and that the course and partnership "have tapped a growing interest in domestic violence issues on the law school campus."

Her first law review article, "Domestic Violence Across State Lines: The Full Faith and Credit Clause, Congressional Power and Interstate Enforcement of Protection Orders," was published in 2004 by the *Northwestern University Law Review*. The article analyzes the complex policy, statutory, and constitutional issues arising from the enforcement in one state of a protection order issued in another state. The article instantly placed Professor Sack in the midst of the scholarly debate about "full faith and credit." This esoteric issue became part of the public discourse when the highest court in Massachusetts held that same-sex marriages must be granted by the state, and an immediate question arose: must other states recognize those marriages?

Since the publication of her article, Professor Sack has been an invited presenter at several academic conferences devoted to the subject, and has been quoted in the mass media. Her second article, "Battered Women and the State: The Struggle for the Future of Domestic Violence Policy," will appear in the *Wisconsin Law Review*. It is a comprehensive review of the history of domestic violence policy in which Professor Sack suggests reforms she views as necessary to move domestic violence policy forward without sacrificing previous advances.

Finally, as co-director of the RWU Law Honors Program, Professor Sack built onto the existing foundation a set of substantive and administrative changes that improved the experience of Honors students and thus the ability of Roger Williams to continue attracting the best and brightest to the School of Law. In addition, her work on the Clerkship Committee has been instrumental in placing our graduates in judicial clerkships throughout the country. In fact, the number of graduates in judicial clerkships has increased over the past several years, and now more than 10 percent of graduates leave the law school to serve in judges' chambers.

We were delighted to welcome Professor David Zlotnick back to the School of Law. Professor Zlotnick originally joined the faculty of the School of Law in 1996. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he had previously served as law clerk to the Honorable John M. Steadman of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia and then as a litigation associate at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson in Washington. For the next four years he prosecuted cases as an Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. He began his teaching career at Stetson University College of Law before coming to Roger Williams.



At the School of Law, Professor Zlotnick has taught courses focusing on criminal law, criminal procedure, and trial advocacy; spent a year as the Interim Director of the Criminal Defense Clinic; and has proven a very effective trial-team coach. He further established himself as an accomplished scholar, publishing major pieces in the law reviews at Ohio State, Arizona, Emory, and Washington & Lee. Finally, Professor Zlotnick has been an active member of Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), an organization opposed to legislation that strips trial judges of their traditional sentencing authority in criminal cases. He was FAMM's first Litigation Director, and has testified on their behalf before the United States Senate, and served as counsel to the organization in litigation before the United States Supreme Court. When the faculty recommended that Professor Zlotnick be granted tenure in 2003, they cited his remarkable contributions to the School of Law: he is a terrific teacher and scholar, and an engaged and effective advocate for legal reform.

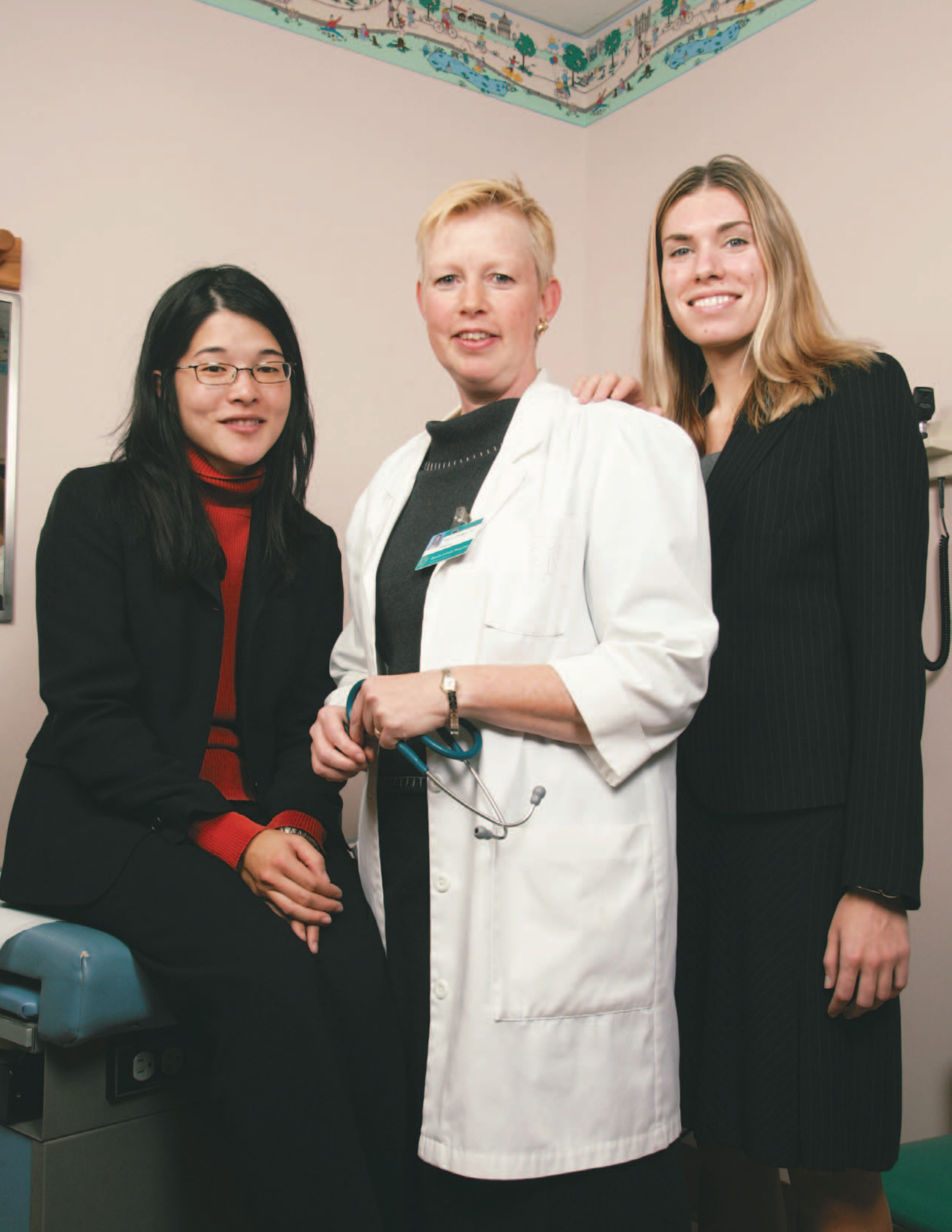
The grant of tenure did not make Professor Zlotnick complacent. In 2003 he received a Soros Justice Senior Fellowship to support research growing out of his interest in mandatory minimum sentencing laws. He was granted a research leave from RWU to work on this project – the creation of a detailed portrait that gathers the stories of federal judges, Republican and Democratic appointees alike, who oppose mandatory minimum sentencing laws. He spent two years in Washington, D.C., working on that project as a Visiting Scholar at George Washington University School of Law and serving as a Visiting Professor at American University's Washington College of Law.

The report is nearing completion, and Professor Zlotnick returned to the School of Law this fall. He has already published two law review articles that preview some of the report's findings: "Shouting into the Wind: District Court Judges and Federal Sentencing Policy," which was published in the tenth anniversary edition of the *Roger Williams University Law Review*, and "The War Within the War on Crime: The Congressional Assault

on Judicial Sentencing Discretion," which was published in the *SMU Law Review*. The latter article has already begun to influence debate on the issue at the highest levels, justifying the faith that the Soros officials placed in Professor Zlotnick's work.

Zlotnick is also back in the classrooms in Bristol, teaching Criminal Law and Trial Advocacy, as well as a unique seminar that grows out of his Soros research. Entitled "Criminal Sentencing and ReEntry," the seminar focuses both on criminal sentencing reform and the issues raised by "re-entry" that is, the return of prisoners to society. Students will be required to correspond with and then write papers about one or two federal or state prisoners.

Since his return to the School of Law, Professor Zlotnick has been interviewed in the local and national media about the Martha Stewart trial, former Providence Mayor Buddy Cianci's appeal, the Supreme Court cases involving challenges to the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, and the Scott Peterson trial. Professor Zlotnick is also currently serving as vice-chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee.



*Kathy Castro, Director,
Sustainable Fisheries
Extension Program, Tara
János, Sea Grant Law
Fellow, and Barry
Costa-Pierce, Director,
Rhode Island Sea Grant.*



A ‘Value Added’ Education

Roger Williams Law Means Learning In and Out of the Classroom

By Michael M. Bowden

As the only law school in the state of Rhode Island, the Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law is uniquely positioned to offer students intimate access to the heart of a thriving legal community. According to Dean David A. Logan, these “value-added” educational features are a vital complement to strictly academic study.

“All ABA-accredited law schools provide their students a sound fundamental legal education,” Logan said. “But at Roger Williams, we add value to the J.D. degree by providing students a broad range of distinctive curricular and co-curricular opportunities, remarkable in range and number for a school barely a decade old. Because of this, our students learn to meld theory and practice before they actually enter the practice of law.”

Whether observing a real-life trial on campus (and lunching with the judge during a break), arguing an appellate brief before Rhode Island Supreme Court justices, or advising real-life clients in one of the school’s specialized clinical programs, law students benefit from a powerful synergy when they expand their knowledge and skills beyond the traditional classroom setting. Here are a few examples of how the School of Law helps make that happen.

Medical/Legal Collaborative

Doctors and lawyers working together? In an age where the two professions are too often perceived as bitter foes, Roger Williams has been instrumental in developing a more civil – and socially beneficial – model for peaceful coexistence.

Since the summer of 2002, the School of Law has been a key partner in the development of the Rhode Island Family Advocacy Program (RIFAP), a medical-legal collaborative that offers legal services to low-income families in health care settings. RIFAP’s other partners include Brown Medical School, Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Rhode Island Legal Services, and Rhode Island Kids Count. Attorneys from Rhode Island Legal Services work with law students to provide legal assistance to low-income families at Hasbro Children’s Hospital and conduct legal education sessions for doctors, nurses, and other staff who may have the opportunity to refer families for legal help.

*Lisa Oshiro, Roger
Williams law student,
Dr. Patricia Flanagan,
Hasbro Children’s
Hospital, and Holly
Kloos, Roger Williams
law student.*

“We’re working together to educate the next generation of doctors and lawyers about the importance of collaboration, to promote justice and better health outcomes for disadvantaged families,” said Liz Tobin Tyler, Director of Public Service and Community Partnerships at the Feinstein Institute for Legal Service at the School of Law. As an integral part of this initiative, Tobin Tyler teaches a seminar entitled “Pursuing Social Justice Through Interdisciplinary Practice: The Medical-Legal Collaborative,” which explores ways in which lawyers can engage in “holistic problem-solving” to better serve disadvantaged clients, while addressing professional and ethical concerns that can arise when lawyers work in an interdisciplinary setting.

Each semester law students collaborate with Brown Medical students, attending joint classroom sessions to learn ways to serve clients and patients by working together. These classes, taught by Tobin Tyler from the law school and Dr. Alicia Monroe and Dr. Jay Baruch from Brown Medical School, focus on unsafe housing and lead poisoning, the educational rights of children with special needs, and mandatory reporting of domestic violence.

“Participation in this innovative partnership places the School of Law at the forefront of a national movement to use interdisciplinary practice and teaching, as well as community/law-school partnerships, to improve access to justice for underprivileged populations,” Tobin Tyler said.

Sea Grant Law Fellows

“It’s always one of those things we’ll get to later,” third-year law student Tara Jänosh said ruefully of the typical government approach to environmental policy. “We still have water to drink. We still have beaches to go to. We still have waterfront to build on. In the grand scheme of government,” she adds, “as long as resources are not dangerously depleted, we’ll get to it later.”

Jänosh, however, believes the time to get to it is now. Determined to generate action on environmental issues, she became one of the first students in a new joint-degree (Juris Doctor and Master of Marine Affairs) program offered by the Roger Williams University School of Law and the University of Rhode Island marine affairs program.



Virginia Lee, Director, Sustainable Coastal Communities & Ecosystem Program, and Tara Jänosh, Sea Grant Law Fellow.

Jänosh is already cutting her teeth on environmental-policy development as one of the first Rhode Island Sea Grant Law Fellows. Adding a practical dimension to course work, the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program connects students directly with clients to provide research on critical marine and coastal problems.

“These are among a number of opportunities for those interested in ocean and coastal law and environmental issues to tailor their legal studies to a chosen specialty and to apply their knowledge in the field,” said Kristen Fletcher, Director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant Legal Program and the RWU Marine Affairs Institute.

A lawyer herself with a distinguished background in marine and environmental law, Fletcher believes students like Jänosh can take advantage of these programs to cultivate innovation and leadership in the formulation of marine and coastal policy. She explains that applied research projects combined with interdisciplinary studies expose students to a range of marine law applications while immersing them in real-world environmental issues.

Jänosh, for example, is presently working with state agencies and local governments to research, analyze, and report on sources of pollution to municipal water supplies. Meanwhile, second-year law student Lance Young is researching fish harvesting co-ops for Rhode Island Sea Grant’s Sustainable Fisheries Extension Program, as potential precursors to policy.

Fletcher points out, “One of the missions of the program is to generate innovative policies and laws to address resources issues. Roger Williams students have the opportunity to help craft these policies.”

On-Campus Trial

As Rhode Island’s only law school, Roger Williams enjoys enviable opportunities to interact with the local bar and judiciary. In one recent example, students got to sit in on an actual trial – without ever leaving the School of Law building.

The event took place last November when the Honorable Ernest C. Torres, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island came to the Bristol to preside over a one-day, civil non-jury trial involving an allegedly fraudulent property conveyance, *United States v. Verduchi*.

“Programs like this one provide students insight into what the legal profession is like once they get beyond their bar exams.”

- defense attorney
Brent Canning '96

“This was a rare opportunity to observe a real federal trial – not a mock-trial – away from a federal courthouse, and it reflects the close relationship between the federal judiciary and the only law school in Rhode Island,” said Lydia Hanhardt, Coordinator for Academic Enrichment Programs. Hanhardt noted that Judge Torres invited students observing the trial to join him and his staff for lunch, where

he answered questions about his handling of the procedural and substantive issues.

For defense attorney Brent Canning – a 1996 alumnus of the School of Law – the trial was something of a homecoming that he “looked forward to with anticipation and excitement.”

Canning noted that, as an alum, it is gratifying to see Roger Williams becoming an ever more integral part of Rhode Island’s legal community. “Like any other business, law is built on relationships and networks,” he said, “so it’s definitely a positive thing to watch the school’s profile rising as the number of its alumni and other connections continues to grow.”

Canning said he hopes to return to campus when Judge Torres’ decision is rendered to discuss the fine points of the case with interested students. “Programs like this one provide students insight into what the legal profession is like once they get beyond their bar exams,” he said.

Moot Court

Moot court competitions exist at virtually every law school, offering students a chance to obtain appellate advocacy skills – but how many actually have the justices of the state’s highest court sitting as the presiding judges, as they typically do in the School of Law’s annual Esther F. Clark Moot Court Competition?

“Not many,” replied Professor Tony Simpson, faculty advisor to the Moot Court Board at Roger Williams School of Law. “But we’re a small state and so we can get the Rhode Island Supreme Court down here pretty easily. In fact, they like to come down to Bristol.”

The justices don’t go easy on the students, however, Simpson noted. They put them through their paces, making them jump through the same sorts of hoops that experienced appellate attorneys would have to face – but with one notable exception.

“The students are often better prepared than real lawyers would be,” said Simpson. “Their arguments are absolutely superb, and the judges always come away most impressed. The students learn lots of valuable lessons, principle among them that you can’t prepare too much. Preparation is key.”

The Board sponsors a broad range of appellate advocacy programs, organizing and administering the internal competition from which students are selected to compete in interscholastic tournaments

with other regional and national law schools. Students participate in the National Moot Court Competition, as well as numerous specialized competitions nationwide. These experiences yield an abundance of practical experience – not to mention the occasional job offers from attorneys who act as advisors to the teams – but Simpson says that such side benefits are not the Moot Court Board’s primary attraction.

“The greatest selling point is that it’s fun,” he said. “Some people like to stand up and argue a point of law, similar to a concert pianist or violinist who practices hours and hours for those 15 minutes on stage.” Simpson pauses, and then adds with a smile, “It’s also a nice break from sitting in the classroom.”



Professor Nancy L. Cook, Director of the Community Justice and Legal Assistance Clinic, and legal clinic students.

Legal Clinics

Roger Williams is committed to inculcating its students with the need to provide legal services to those in need. The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service, for example, was created to produce an enduring culture of public service among Roger Williams law students; the medical/legal collaborative noted above is just one example of the Institute’s work.

Three legal clinics provide additional “hands-on” public service experience. The Criminal Defense Clinic gives students an opportunity to directly represent indigent criminal defendants in cases involving misdemeanor and traffic offenses, including allegations of drug possession, petty theft, assault, domestic violence, disorderly conduct, drunk driving and

breathalyzer refusal. Students handle every stage of representation, including motion practice, discovery and investigation, negotiations, pre-trial litigation, and even trial work. Noted clinician Professor Peter Margulies directs a second clinic, focusing on protecting the rights of people with disabilities, which allows students to appear in both court and administrative settings.

“Much of the most important public interest work can be accomplished by the use of the law,” said Associate Professor Andy Horwitz, Director of Clinical Programs.

Roger Williams’ newest clinic, the Community Justice and Legal Assistance (CJLA) Clinic, is headed by Associate Professor Nancy Cook, former Clinical Director at Cornell University, who says her goal is to help students and clients see one another as people, not abstractions.

“Both sides generally come to the table with their own set of preconceptions and stereotypes,” Cook said. “My hope is that they walk away thinking of each other as human beings, perhaps with a lot more in common than either of them ever expected.”

Students in the CJLA Clinic actively represent predominantly young, low-income, minority clients in cases involving foster care and adoption, parole and probation, child custody, visitation, and support, housing, consumer education, or abuse and neglect – from interviewing to counseling, investigation to document drafting, courtroom advocacy to negotiation, all under the close supervision and guidance of clinical faculty. By coordinating efforts with social workers, psychologists, public-interest lawyers, religious leaders, educators, neighborhood civic groups, non-profit organizations, and others, students get a holistic (rather than narrowly legal) understanding of their clients and the tools available to help them.

Roger Williams’ CJLA clinic is not only an extremely well-designed learning experience; it’s also a rare one. “There are only two clinical programs in the nation doing anything remotely like this,” Cook said.

Indeed, it is arguable that few law schools in the country provide such a rigorous and systematic combination of classroom theory and real-life experience. At Roger Williams University School of Law, students receive what can truly be termed a “value-added” legal education.



Lydia R. Hanley and Anthony L. Bastone II.

Charting a New Course: Office of Career Services

By Meghan L. Hansen



The Office of Career Services is pleased to welcome two key players to help “create the best career services office in the nation; anything less would be unacceptable to the alumni, staff, and students at the law school,” remarked new Assistant Dean for the Office of Career Services, Anthony L. Bastone II.

In August 2004, Bastone was hired for the newly created position of Assistant Dean for the Office of Career Services

to improve career services offerings for the law school. Before joining Roger Williams, Bastone was Assistant Dean for the Office of Career Services at the University of Colorado School of Law. Bastone brings with him 26 years in legal education, having served at five other law schools as Assistant Dean or Director.

In October 2004, Lydia R. Hanley was hired to the newly created position of Associate Director of Career Services. Before joining Roger Williams, Hanley practiced commercial real estate for several years at Rogers Towers, P.A. in Jacksonville, Fla. She received her B.A., magna cum laude, from Bates College and her J.D. with honors from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

Amicus recently sat down with Bastone to discuss the services that alumni and students have available to them.

How will you create the best career services office in the nation?

We pride ourselves on treating alumni and students as our clients. We will serve as advocates for our clients in the legal community. We have the opportunity to take a young and growing law school and establish a legacy for our office which will serve future generations. According to a Chinese proverb, “give a man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime.” We are giving fishing lessons in our office.

What new services are you offering to alumni and students?

We are strengthening the on-campus interviewing program. We have created a student committee, whose members serve as ombudsmen to oversee, recommend, and provide criticism to help the office determine where to concentrate its marketing efforts. We plan on reaching out to legal employers in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, selected areas of New England, and student-represented states in the nation. The recruitment of employers will be vital. Additionally, we are creating the *Hawklaw* newsletter, which is an alumni job bulletin that will be available to alumni each month online or by email. Also, in November we offered a Legal Career Options Day to our students for the first time.

What is Legal Career Options Day?

Legal Career Options Day was a successful first-time event for Roger Williams co-sponsored by the Rhode Island Bar Association and the Office of Career Services. We invited individuals from the bench, bar, and alternate legal careers to give students an opportunity to see the versatility of the J.D. degree. The event was designed to help students learn about represented institutions, secure business cards, and obtain contacts. The attorney participants were invited to talk to students about their field of expertise, to visit with students about career options, and to give students information on job opportunities now and in the near future. The event was successful with 61 attorney participants and over 300 RWU law students in attendance. A highlight of the night was the announcement of a generous \$2,000 gift in immediate support of student educational programs at Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law given by Leo's Ristorante in Bristol, R.I.

What improved services are offered?

We offer alumni counseling for job searches. We prepare alumni and students for interviews by conducting mock interviews. Our office reviews cover letters and resumes, and provides strategies to use in the job search. Beginning in the spring semester, we will also be available to our clients during evening hours twice a week to accommodate alumni and students who are unavailable during the day.

What resources are available in the office?

Alumni and students are welcome to use our growing library and resources. We are in the process of building a state-of-the-art career resource library equipped with computers that have a host of legal and legal-related job bank links to assist in the job search process.

Any additional exciting news to share with the law school community?

Our students had the opportunity to participate for the first time in the 2005 Public Interest/Public Service Legal Career Symposium at New York University School of Law held in early February. The Feinstein Institute for Legal Service and the Office of Career Services



collaborated to facilitate this exciting opportunity. Students had an opportunity to submit resumes online to approximately 185 public interest and government employers and to attend the symposium for interviews after being selected.

What do you see for the future of the Office of Career Services?

A journalist for the *Wall Street Journal* once called me a "Road Warrior" in reference to my marketing and recruiting efforts. I will be a "Road Warrior" for Roger Williams University School of Law, attracting employers to our school. I will travel to judiciary offices and law firms to meet with their hiring/managing partners and offer a presentation on our law school. I have used this recruiting method at other law schools around the country and it has proven to be successful.

On a personal note, what attracted you to Roger Williams Law?

This is a good story. I received a phone message from Kim Fields at Wake Forest University School of Law saying, "Rhode Island, think about it, call me tomorrow."

Dean David A. Logan had contacted Fields to ask her for a recommendation for the new position of Assistant Dean for the Office of Career Services. I called Fields back and she asked me what I knew about Rhode Island and I replied with "Rhode Island is the smallest state, one of the original thirteen colonies, and I think there is an ocean there."

She proceeded to ask me if I knew about Roger Williams University School of Law. I said that I did because I had read an article in the *New York Times* about Roger Williams achieving ABA

SAVE THE DATE

2nd Annual Legal Career Options Day

Friday, November 18, 2005

4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Table Talk

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Reception

*Stephen G. Bernardo, Esq. '98
and Morn Phaen '05.*

accreditation in record time. Fields told me that Logan was interested in speaking with me about the position. I called Logan and asked him to answer one question of mine before I started answering his questions; he agreed. I asked him, "Why did a senior faculty member of Wake Forest University School of Law leave to become the dean at a young law school?" Logan replied, "Because I was excited by the prospect of helping take a fledgling institution to the next level."

He had heard that I also welcome challenges and so he was interested in me. I was very impressed with Roger Williams and I wanted the challenge of bringing the Office of Career Services to an exceptional performing status. My first task was to hire Associate Director Hanley, who exemplifies the passion and commitment needed to work in this arena. There is a high turnover rate with career services staff; you need the "fire in your belly" to succeed, and she has it. I have been working in legal education for twenty-six years and my fire still burns brightly today.

The Office of Career Services can be reached by telephone at (401) 254-4650; by fax at (401) 254-4540; and by email at careerservices@law.rwu.edu.

The Office of Career Services is located on the second floor of the School of Law in Suite 243.



Professor David Rice, Michael Moore and his guide dog, Kyack, Professor Larry Ritchie.

Birnberg Award Winner

Michael C. Moore, '04 was awarded the Jack & Louise Birnberg Family Foundation Award. This award was established through the generosity of the Birnberg Foundation. It honors a student who has demonstrated perseverance, determination, and dedication to succeed throughout his or her entire law school career at Roger Williams.

Presently, Mr. Moore is in New York City studying for the bar exam, which he will take in February 2005. The award money was used to facilitate bar preparation assistance and his relocation to N.Y. His future plans include pursuing a M.S.W. degree and working at the Family Court in N.Y.

School of Law Annual Fund Campaign

Eric Archer, School of Law Development Officer

We are pleased to announce that, with five months remaining in the fiscal year, the Law Alumni Association (LAA) has surpassed its optimistic goal of 22% participation in the annual fund. Thanks to the head start provided by Golf Chair Anthony Leone and the record-breaking attendance at this year's alumni golf tournament, followed by the tireless efforts of LAA Board President Mark Gemma and the rest of the LAA Board, we have already more than doubled last year's participation. We expect to triple last year's participation levels by the end of the fiscal year. Fourteen checks arrived on December 29, 2004, bringing annual fund participation to a level six percent above the national average for law school annual fund giving, eight percent above the best former year for the School of Law, and exactly to the mark necessary to surpass the LAA's goal of 22% alumni participation. If current pledges alone are honored, we will exceed 25%, a level that many of the nation's top tier law schools would envy. Our revised goal for the fiscal year will be to reach participation levels that place us in the top 10% nationally.

While the numbers tell a story, they don't tell the whole story. Among parent gifts, Gary Gearhart, an attorney and father of 2004 alumna Alissa Gearhart, was so impressed by the bar exam pass percentage for RWU School of Law in Illinois this year (100%)—that is to say, Alissa—that he donated Alissa's first billable hour to the school. Among notable alumni gifts, eleven individuals provided motivation during the early stages of the campaign, pledging to contribute one dollar for each donation to the fund received prior to December 1, 2004. Notable gifts from friends of the school include that of Mitchell R. Edwards, an associate at Hinckley Allen. Thanks to his firm's sponsorship of the Thurgood Marshall Memorial Lecture and the events at the School of Law which followed, Mitchell has become a familiar and enthusiastic presence at School of Law events. Assumed to be an alum, Mitchell was asked whether he would join others in the dollar per donor challenge. After promptly agreeing to join the challenge, however, he pointed out that he was a Cornell Law grad. Mitchell had practiced in New York, and said that he had decided to move to Rhode Island

and to practice here, in part, because he enjoyed working with the state's lawyers. He credited Roger Williams University Ralph R. Papitto School of Law with helping build a feeling of community among Rhode Island attorneys, and made his pledge to the school out of his appreciation for its role in fostering the level of professionalism and collegiality shared by Rhode Island attorneys.

Congratulations and thanks to all alumni who have already participated in this groundbreaking year. For those who have not done so, please consider a gift by June 30, 2005.

Annual Giving

Every gift to the School of Law Annual Fund, no matter the size, assists the School of Law to continue to provide our students with a superior legal education. Call the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events, 401-254-4659, to make a gift, or e-mail Eric Archer at earcher@rwu.edu. Thank you, in advance, for supporting the School of Law.



Bill McCall, Heather Spellman, '01, Judge Edward Clifton, and Jim McCall, II, '99.



Allan Wasserman, '96, Bill Chamberlain, '96, Ken McKay, '96, and Robert Kando, '96.

Special Thanks to the Golf Tournament Committee & Volunteers:

Anthony Leone, II, '97, Chair

Committee Members

Kevin Hagan, '01
Eric Miller, '01
Robert Palmer, '02
Deborah Pannullo, '97
Michael Voccola, '97
Chelsie Horne, Office of Alumni, Programs & Events
Eric Archer, Office of Advancement

Volunteers

Rui Alves
Jennifer Brooks, '99
Susan Rossi Cook, '01
Geraldine Crofton
Michael Field, '97
Lea Gifford, 2L
Deborah Kennedy, '97
Stephen Maguire, '96
Jenny Miller
Cheryl Robertson, '96
Alison Sonko, '04

5th Annual Law Alumni Association

Golf Tournament Tops \$10,000
Sunday, August 29, 2004

The 5th Annual Law Alumni Golf Tournament has topped the \$10,000 mark for the first time. This annual event continues to be one of our most fun and successful events. More than 130 alumni and friends joined us at Cranston Country Club for a great day of golf, food, and reminiscing.

The continued support from this event has enabled the Law Alumni Association to increase its annual scholarship to two \$750 scholarships, which are awarded to outstanding second-year day and evening division students.

The Ben & Jerry's cart joined the Del's Lemonade cart as the featured on-course refreshments. A new car, courtesy of Simon-Chevrolet Buick, was the hole-in-one prize for the 15th hole. Thomson-West donated golf balls with tee packs to each player. The night concluded with dinner, raffle, and a silent auction.

The Law Alumni Golf Tournament has served as the major fundraiser for the Law Alumni Scholarship Fund. Our goal is to hit the \$12,000 mark in the 2005 event. Help make this possible.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the
6th Annual Law Alumni Golf Tournament
on Sunday,
August 28, 2005
at the Cranston
Country Club.

A Special Thanks to our Sponsors:

136 Express Printing & Copy Center
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Andrew Alberino, '96
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Michael Boylen, Office of Admissions
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CATIC-A Bar Related Title Insurer
Chamberlain, McKay,
Kando & Wasserman, '96
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Community College of
R.I.-Athletic Department
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Eric Archer, Office of Advancement
Esquire Deposition Services
Brad & Dori Faxon, '00
Fay Law Associates
Fenner Hill Golf Course
First Acura
Foster Country Club
Foxwoods Resort & Casino
Chris Gasbarro's Fine Wine & Spirits
Gemma Law Associates
Karen M. Hadam MD, JD, '02 -
Medical Legal Consulting
Kevin Hagan, '01
Chelsie Horne, Office of Alumni, Programs & Events
Hotel Viking
Hyatt Regency Newport
Jay El Trophies
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Ralph and Barbara Papitto
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Rice Dolan & Kershaw
Roberto's Restaurant
Sasafrass
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Stan Roberts Specialty

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Roger Williams University
Law Bookstore
John Ruggiero's Auto Body, Inc.
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Showcase Cinemas
Joe Simon, '97
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Slepkow, Slepkow & Associates
Snacktime Vending, Inc.
Sodexho at Roger Williams University
Maurene Souza, '01 -
MacAdams & Weick, Inc.
Spencer Reporting Associates
Stephen Maguire, Esq.
Student Bar Association
The Bianco Family
Thomson West Group
Travelers Auto Body
Uncle Tony's Pizza & Pasta Restaurant
Verizon
Michael A. Voccola, '97
Wayne Distributors
Michael Yelnosky & Laurie Barron



Top Row (left to right): Matt Homsber, Rebecca Warr, Denise (Ryone) Wagner, Kevin Chrisanthopoulos, Santino Martinelli, and Tara and Doug Ominsky.



Neal Richard Pandozzi and Jennifer Brooks.

Bottom Row (left to right): Tom Robinson, Jennifer Brooks, and Chris Friel.

Class of 1999 Fifth-Year Reunion

On Saturday, August 28, 2004, members of the Class of 1999 gathered at the Courtyard by Marriott in Providence, R.I., to celebrate the Fifth-Year Reunion of their class. More than 65 alumni, faculty, and guests assemble to commemorate this milestone.

2000 2005

SAVE THE DATE

The Class of 2000 Fifth-Year Reunion Reception will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at the Courtyard Marriott, Providence, R.I. If you wish to join the Reunion Committee, please e-mail your interest to lawevents@rwu.edu. Additional event details will be posted on-line: <http://law.rwu.edu/Alumni/Alumni+Events.htm>.



Washington, DC Area Alumni Reception

Washington, DC area alumni gathered on May 20, 2004 to visit with Dean David A. Logan at the Mayflower Hotel. Photographed (left to right): Jennifer Samolyk, '96, School of Law Development Officer Eric Archer, David MacDuffee, '01, Dean Logan, Jennifer Perkins, '97, Heather Pearlman, '96, Professor Louise Teitz, and Cindy DeMarco, '96.



Left: Editor-in-Chief of Law Review Todd Barton with Chief Justice Frank J. Williams.

Right: Assistant Dean of Career Services Anthony Bastone and Managing Editor of the Law Review Kathryn Windsor.

Law Review Alumni Reception

The Law Review Editorial Board and the Law Alumni Association hosted a reception honoring Law Review Alumni and congratulating 2004-2005 staff members on October 27, 2004, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Providence, R.I. Honored guest Chief Justice Frank J. Williams made remarks to more than 65 alumni, students, faculty, and guests.



Law Alumni Association Holiday Reception

The 7th Annual Law Alumni Association Holiday Party was held on December 6, 2004. More than 85 alumni, faculty, and guests attended the reception at the new location, the Hi-Hat in Providence, R.I. A silent auction benefitted the School of Law Annual Fund. Auction prizes included dinner for four at Dean David Logan's home, Pawtucket Red Sox Game or Rhode Island Philharmonic Concert for four with Professor Robert Kent, home-made Italian dinner for two made by Assistant Dean Anthony Bastone and Associate Director of Career Services Lydia Hanley in your home, and tickets for two to the Broadway show *Movin' Out* at the Providence Performing Arts Center. Special thanks to our Silent Auction sponsors for their generosity and continued support.

1. Lisa Bernardo, Deborah Kennedy, '97, and Ann Corriveau, '01.
2. Law Alumni Association Communications & Event Chair Stephen Bernardo, '98, and Dana Harrell, '97.
3. Law Alumni Association President Mark Gemma, '97 with students Joelle Sylvia and Ronald Grant, Student Bar Association President.



Law Alumni Association Community Service Chair Joel J. Votolato, '03, and Director of Development at Crossroads Rhode Island Lisa Roth Blackman.

Attendees of the Law Alumni Association Holiday Reception were invited to bring canned food items, toys, and clothing to assist needy families during the holiday season. The Holiday Food & Clothing Drive items were given to the Crossroads Rhode Island in Providence.



Area Alumni Receptions

The School of Law will be hosting various alumni receptions throughout the country. Associate Dean Michael Yelnosky met with Philadelphia area alumni on October 28, 2004, at the Independence Brew Pub. The Boston Area alumni will be gathering on March 10, 2005 at the Harvard Club of Boston. If you are interested in assisting the Office of Alumni, Programs & Events in preparing an alumni event in your area, please e-mail your interest to lawevents@rwu.edu.

Class Notes

1996

Richard Anderson has retired from his position as executive director and general counsel to the Chiropractic Society of R.I. He is now the executive director and secretary/treasurer of the Newport Institute and active with the Government Lawyers Committee of the R.I. Bar Association. He serves as district governor of the District of R.I. and Southeastern Mass. of Rotary International. He became a new grandfather twice in 2004.

Brent Canning is a partner with Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, LLP.

Marybeth D'Albora, broker associate with Coleman Realtors in Providence, has announced a new brand identity: Marybeth on the East Side. She specializes in the East Side of Providence and Oak Hill neighborhoods.

Cindy DeMarco received a Meritorious Service Medal in 2003 for 3 years of service at her first duty assignment and in early 2004 received an Army Commendation Medal for her last 1 year of service – for a total of five. She is now an assistant general counsel for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Washington, D.C.

Stephen Maguire and his wife Laura welcomed their new daughter, Lily Anna Norma, in March 2004.

Anne (Richardson) Nicoll married Brad Nicoll on November 20, 2004.

Jennifer Samolyk married John Bradford Romney on October 16, 2004 at the Inn at Castle Hill in Newport, R.I. They are both attorneys at the law firm of Howrey Simon Arnold & White in Washington, D.C. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.

1997

Alyssa Boss is a partner with Hinckley, Allen & Snyder, LLP.

Martin Cosgrove is an attorney at the office of Moore and Rutt in Georgetown, Del.

Deborah Kennedy has been promoted to federal grants coordinator at the R.I. Department of Education. She will be interpreting new federal statutes, negotiating, and writing contracts and grants.

Randall Lewis is employed as the general counsel for EHC (Escalator Handrail Company) of Toronto, Canada. He will be based in Shanghai, China and handle all of the company's legal matters worldwide.

Robert Pellegrini is senior attorney in the legal department for Cumberland Farms, Inc. in Canton, Mass. He has two children, Sam (4) and Max (2).

Brook deAngelis Rowan and husband are new parents to a son, Reed Dean Rowan, born on September 18, 2004. Brook won the New England adult medal grand championship in 2002 and now owns and operates a show-jumping and sales stable named Brook Top Farm, in Westport, Mass.

Jeffrey D. Sowa and Jennifer A. St. Laurent, '01, were married on December 27, 2003. Jeffrey is an attorney at Laplante and Sowa in Providence, R.I. and Jennifer is an attorney at Revens, Revens and St. Pierre in Warwick, R.I. The couple resides in Scituate, R.I.

Gina Stillman and her husband, Adam, welcomed their second child, Sydney Addison.

Michael Voccola was married to Nancy Pariseault on May 23, 2004, in Jamestown, R.I. They traveled to London for their honeymoon, where they visited with Professor Robert Webster. The couple has two children, Ami (18) and Michael (15). His position at The Procaccianti Group, America's 27th-largest hotel owner and operator, has expanded beyond house counsel, insurance coordinator, and business development; he heads the development team now. He also works on all due diligence issues when acquiring and disposing of properties.

1998

Stephen G. Bernardo has been appointed chief operating officer for Hilco Financial, LLC in Canton, Mass.

Stephanie DiSarro-Anderson and Robert J. Reilly, '00 have formed a general law practice handling all civil and criminal legal matters in R.I., Mass., and Conn. The name of the firm is DiSarro-Anderson & Reilly, LLP, and is located in Johnston, R.I. Stephanie and her husband, Dennis, have a 3-year old son, DJ.

Ryan Truskoski is a board certified civil appellate expert and a board certified criminal appellate expert. He is the youngest attorney in Florida to hold either one of the appellate specialties and one of only two attorneys in the state to hold both appellate specialties. He has his own law practice in Orlando, Fla.

Ronald R. Warr, Jr. and Rebecca N. Warr ('99) have formed a new law firm, Warr & Warr, P.C. and title company, Warranty Title, Inc. The office is located at 275 Reservoir Ave., Providence, R.I. They have a new son Samuel, born in April of 2004 and a 3-year-old daughter, Cassandra.

1999

Louis DeQuattro is chief of legal services at the Department of Administration for the State of Rhode Island.

William Di Pietro married Kristin DiMatteo on August 16, 2003. He is practicing nursing-home litigation at the law firm of Stark & Stark, P.C. in Lawrenceville, N.J.

Todd Porter is corporate director of risk management for United Site Services, Inc., in Westboro, Mass. He welcomed a second child, Maryanne Elizabeth, on March 4, 2003.

Tracie Marciarelli Souza resides in Anthem, Ariz., where she practices domestic-relations law. She has two children, Dylan (5) and Jaelyn Lorayne (1).

2000

Christopher Biafore married Kristen Larson on February 7, 2004. The couple resides in Smithfield, R.I. Christopher is an attorney at Goldman & Biafore in Providence, R.I.

Sheila D. Conway will present a paper at the Third Virginia Commonwealth Education Law Conference in April of 2005. Her subject will be Video Surveillance in Public School: Safety vs. Student Privacy and Workplace Privacy. She presented a paper on Academic Freedom, Copyright Law, and Sufficient Public School Policy Regarding the Use "of Videos and DVDs" at the conference in April 2004. The Commonwealth Educational Policy Institute of Virginia Commonwealth University sponsors the conferences. Matthew Bender & Co. (Lexis) published all conference papers.

John B. Garry is the executive director of the Rhode Island Republican Party.

Jessica L. George married Patrick M. Cleary on November 29, 2003. The couple resides in Seekonk, Mass. Jessica is employed by Morrison, Mahoney & Miller, LLP, in Providence, R.I.

Leonard Katzman was recently elected to the Town Council in the Town of Portsmouth, R.I.

Walter J. Manning has created a partnership with Emile Martineau named Martineau & Manning, P.C. in Warwick, R.I. They are a general practice law firm with a specialization in real estate and business.

Imabong Okopedeghe is living in London, England, with her husband Kenneth and son, Uduakobong, who was born in August of 2003.

Aaron T. Strojny has opened The Law Offices of Aaron T. Strojny in Fall River, Mass. He was married to **Christiana (Mann) Strojny**, '01 on October 12, 2003 in Bristol, R.I. The couple resides in Attleboro, Mass.

2001

Carolyn Asquith Tebben is now at the law offices of Kevin Heffernan in Portland, Maine. She recently became a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Board of Directors for the Brunswick, Maine area. She and her husband recently purchased a house in Brunswick.

Rene Brown started her own law office in January 2004 in Fall River, Mass. Her practice focuses on criminal defense, personal injury, family and probate law.

Chris Bruun and his wife, Laurie, welcomed their first child, Brendan Patrick, on November 17, 2004. Chris is presently working for Gold, Albanese, Barletti & Velazquez, an insurance defense firm. The family lives in Randolph, N.J.

Ann M. Corriveau is an associate at Rezendes & Associates and is an Adjunct Professor at Bristol Community College in Fall River, Mass.

Todd Lindmark is now senior vice president at Meridien Benefits Group in Providence, R.I. He has three children – Katherine (4), Kiera and Aidan (2).

Maurene Souza is an attorney at MacAdams & Wieck, Inc. in Providence, R.I., in the business litigation division.

Christiana E. (Mann) Strojny is employed as an associate at Lynch & Lynch, an insurance defense firm, in South Easton, Mass.

2002

Michael Daly, who formerly was a law clerk for Chief Justice Frank Williams of the R.I. Supreme Court, is now an associate attorney at Vetter & White in Providence, R.I. He also is the proud father of a new daughter, Ella Rose.

Justin Deppe and his wife, Lisa, are the proud parents of their first child, daughter Miranda Gloria, who was born on January 6, 2004. Justin has his own general practice office in Jewell, Iowa.

Nancy S. Fazzino is an associate with the law firm of Kinney & Secola, LLC in New Haven, Conn. She is engaged to Steven M. Hunter, with a wedding planned for June 2005.

Christy (Hetherington) Grijalva is a special assistant attorney general in the civil division at the Rhode Island Department of Attorney General. Christy, and her husband, Bleu, welcomed their son, Benjamin Bleu, into the world on February 12, 2004.

Woongtae Kim received a master of laws degree in graduate taxation from Boston University.

Jacques LeMarier is living in Dallas, Texas, and is a bankruptcy attorney in Irving, Texas.

Kelly A. Moore is assistant public defender in the Cook County Public Defender's Office in Chicago, Ill.

Lucy Holmes Plovnick has joined Stinson, Morrison, Hecker, LLP in Washington, DC as an associate in the firm's energy & telecommunications practice group. Lucy was admitted to the D.C. bar on August 9, 2004. She is also admitted in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Benjamin Wyzansky is lead counsel at D'Amico & Burchfield, LLP, in Providence, R.I. In April 2004, he married Lynn Gifford, '02.

2003

Madeleine Bass will be a mediation consultant for the Law Office of Patrick Quinlan in Providence, R.I.

Neville Bedford is an attorney at the Rhode Island Family and Consumer Law Center in Pawtucket, R.I.

Holly Briggs is in the Office of the Public Defender in Providence, R.I. as an assistant public defender in the family court division, specifically working in the juvenile criminal division.

Joy Dingle is working as an education specialist with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Ombudsman, in Washington, D.C.

William Elderkin is an attorney in the office of Fay Law Associates in Cranston, R.I.

Mark P. Gagliardi married Sherri St. Angelo on September 19, 2003. The couple resides in Warwick, R.I.

Louise Marcus is in-house corporate counsel with MetLife Auto & Home in the company's Warwick, R.I. headquarters.

Michael McCarthy married Jennifer Plouffe on October 11, 2003. Michael is an attorney in the office of U.S. Representative Patrick J. Kennedy. The couple resides in Pawtucket, R.I.

Douglas Mercurio is in an of counsel position for Richmond & Associates of Danvers, Mass. He leads the real estate area of the practice.

Peter P. Pascucci married Michele L. Ledoux on October 11, 2003. In attendance at the wedding were **Todd Romano**, '03 and **Joel Votolato**, '03. After a honeymoon trip, the couple resides in South Kingstown, R.I. Peter is serving in the Navy – Judge Advocate General Corps in Virginia Beach, Va.

Todd Romano and wife, Karyn, have a daughter Sofia, born on June 30, 2004.

C. Richard Shewack is employed at Riker Danzig Scherer Hyland & Perretti in Morristown, N.J. He and his wife, Martina, had their fourth child, Samantha Olivia, on October 21, 2004.

Josh Stewart is an attorney with the law offices of Carlson & Meissner in New Port Richey, Fla. He is specializing in the areas of workers' compensation, toxic torts, and pharmaceutical litigation.

Joel Votolato is employed at Carrara Dayan, PC, in Providence, R.I. He and his wife, Jill, have three children – Julianna, Max, and Sean.

Lisa Waggoner is an associate at Resnick & Caffrey in Warwick, R.I.

2004

Tenley Beals will graduate from the Master of Laws (LL.M.) program in intellectual property law at Franklin Pierce Law Center in May 2005. She has accepted a position upon graduation as an intellectual property attorney with Edwards & Angell, LLP.

Amanda Bertrand is a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Jane Grall in the Superior Court of New Jersey Appellate Division, located in Trenton, N.J. She was admitted to the New Jersey and Pennsylvania bars in 2004. She is planning a July 2005 wedding to fellow alum Richard A. Foster, '04.

Alethea Cicero is a legal coordinator at Rikers Island.

Richard A. Foster is a judicial law clerk to the Honorable N. Peter Conforti in the Superior Court of New Jersey Law Division (Criminal) in Newton, N.J. He was admitted to the New Jersey bar in 2004.

Alissa Gearhart is a member of the Illinois Bar and is an associate at the law firm of Gary L. Gearhart & Associates in La Salle, Ill. She is practicing law in the following areas: criminal, family, worker's compensation, bankruptcy, real estate, personal

injury, and commercial litigation. In December 2004, she was admitted to the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

Kathleen Giles is clerking in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania in Scranton, Penn. She is admitted to practice law in New Jersey and New York.

Jonathan Pincince is an associate at the law firm of Zizik, Powers, O'Connell, Spaulding & Lamontagne, P.C. in Providence, R.I.

Mark T. Romley is working with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Environmental and Natural Resources Division. He will receive his LL.M. in environmental law from The George Washington University Law School in May 2005.

Megan Snowberger is working at The Law Offices of Michael Kelly in Providence, R.I. She is currently residing in Cranston, R.I.

Brian Terlinsky moved back to his hometown in the Washington, D.C. after graduation, area and has joined a mid-size intellectual property firm in Arlington, Va.

Larry White is the executive director of the Ankara Turkish-American Association. The Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering relations between the Turkish and American people.

Eric T. Wiberg will graduate from the University of Rhode Island with a Master's degree in marine affairs in January 2005. He married Alexandra Talmage Gray on October 23, 2004 in Newport, R.I.

In Memorium

2000

James Stephen, Jr. of Burrillville, R.I. died on January 20, 2004. He was a self-employed attorney and had been an airplane mechanic for American Eagle Airlines.

New job?

Promotion?

Award recipient?

Recently married?

Share your news with the Roger Williams University School of Law community.

E-mail your Class Notes to:
lawalumni@rwu.edu



Jennifer Perkins, '97

Legislative Assistant to United States Senator Lincoln Chafee

By Vicki J. Ray, '98

Jennifer Perkins graduated in 1994 from the University of Maine, Orono, Maine, *cum laude* with a B.A. in Political Science. After graduation, she came to Rhode Island to attend Roger Williams University School of Law. She was drawn to the school because of its proximity to the sea; Ms. Perkins spent five summers as a commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay, Alaska.



Ms. Perkins' introduction to politics occurred while in law school. During school, she worked for a general practice law firm in downtown Providence. This firm lobbied legislative bodies on behalf of the 26 Housing Authorities in Rhode Island. Additionally, during her last semester of law school, Ms. Perkins participated in a Rhode Island Senate Fiscal and Policy Fellowship. She worked with then Rhode Island Senate Majority Leader Paul Kelley, advising him on a variety of controversial issues before the Rhode Island Senate. In that position, she also wrote and presented reports and memoranda to the Senate Majority Leader. She also analyzed, drafted, and amended state legislation.

Upon graduation in 1997, Ms. Perkins chose to pursue a non-traditional legal career path: she continued to work for the Providence firm, serving as an advocate for the housing authorities and was involved in criminal, family, probate, and insurance defense matters.

In 1998, drawing on the experience she gained while representing the Housing Authorities, Ms. Perkins became the Associate Director for the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, a private, non-partisan membership association of local governments in Rhode Island, whose stated mission is "to represent the interests of municipal officials and to provide them services which enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of city and town services."

The League represents municipalities at the state government level, legislatively and on boards and commissions. A major focus of the League was Public Policy and Government Relations. In that area, Ms. Perkins had numerous duties including drafting, amending, and tracking State legislation; testifying before state legislative committees (an average of 150 times per session); developing legislative strategy and forming lobbying coalitions; serving on more than 22 statewide boards and commissions; attending hearings, and informing members on matters before the Public Utilities Commission; and presenting at several national conferences on behalf of the League. Ms. Perkins remained in that position for four years.

Ms. Perkins met Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) in 1998 while he was President of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns. In 2003, Senator Chafee offered Ms. Perkins a position as his legislative assistant in Washington, D.C. Knowing a good offer when she heard one, Ms. Perkins accepted the Senator's offer, packed up all her belongings, and moved to D.C. within three weeks.

In her current position, Ms. Perkins is Senator Chafee's primary policy advisor on Tax, Labor, and Budget issues. (In addition to Ms. Perkins' area, the senator has other legislative assistants in specific subject matter areas such as Healthcare, Education, Foreign Affairs, and the Environment.)

In her position as a primary policy advisor, Ms. Perkins duties include

advising the Senator on dozens of votes before the U.S. Senate; drafting bills, amendments, and public statements; planning and executing legislative strategies, researching issues and relevant statutes and collaborating with interest groups, other Senate & House offices and constituents; drafting an alternative Federal Budget for FY 2004; representing the Senator before constituents, groups and outside interests; analyzing, and negotiating with other Senate staff and lobbyists on pending legislation.

A legislative assistant may attend up to seven meetings a day with various entities, including constituents, lobbyists, and outside interest groups, like medical associations. What the Senate does is very staff-driven. Several votes a day can occur when the Senate is in session. No Senator could possibly amass all the information they need on all issues prior to voting without the assistance of staff members. The legislative assistants present arguments on all sides of an issue. The Senator will often ask for the legislative assistant's recommendation as to how to vote.

Ms. Perkins also meets with staff from other Senate offices to determine overall Senate interests on particular issues. She does this because in order for any Senator to get sponsored bills into law, there must be enough votes for the measure to pass.

Ms. Perkins says she loves her job. She finds her work on Capitol Hill very interesting and rewarding, noting that there is never a dull moment.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Annual Barristers' Ball

6:00 p.m. Reception

7:00 p.m. Dinner & Dancing

Providence Biltmore Hotel

11 Dorrance Street

Providence, Rhode Island

Tickets for Alumni: \$60 per person

Advance ticket purchase required.

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Law Alumni Association Board
of Directors Quarterly Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Providence Campus

Board Room – First Floor

150 Washington Street

Providence, Rhode Island



Saturday, May 14, 2005

School of Law Commencement

3:00 p.m.

Open Seating

Bristol Campus

Thursday, June 9, 2005

Law Alumni Association Annual
Meeting & Breakfast

In conjunction with the Rhode Island
Bar Association Annual Meeting

7:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

The Westin Providence

One Exchange Street

Providence, Rhode Island

RSVP required at lawevents@rwu.edu

Friday, August 5, 2005



*Attorney
General
Patrick Lynch*

Rhode Island Department
of Attorney General
7th Annual General Open
Government Summit

8:30 a.m. Registration

9:00 a.m. Summit

School of Law

Bristol Campus

Open Meetings Act and Access
to Public Records Act Overview:

- Open Government Manual

- Recent Developments

- Ethics Commission Presentation

- Question & Answer Session

Complimentary registration fee.

RSVP required to the Rhode Island
Attorney General Office at
401-274-4400, Ext. 2425, or e-mail:
chetherington@riag.state.ri.us.



Saturday, August 27, 2005

School of Law Class of 2000

Fifth Year Reunion Reception

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Courtyard by Marriott

Downtown Providence

32 Exchange Terrace

Providence, Rhode Island

Tickets: \$20 per person

\$35 per couple

RSVP required at lawevents@rwu.edu

Carly (Beauvais) Iafrate, Esq., '00

Chair, Class of 2000 Reunion Committee



Sunday, August 28, 2005

6th Annual Law Alumni Association
Golf Tournament

11:30 a.m. Registration

12:00 noon Lunch

1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start

6:30 p.m. Dinner, Raffle,
Silent Auction
& Prizes

Cranston Country Club

69 Burlingame Road

Cranston, Rhode Island

\$100 per player

\$100 per tee sponsorship

All proceeds from the Golf Tournament
benefit the Law Alumni Association
Scholarship Fund.

For more information or a registration
form, contact lawevents@rwu.edu.

Anthony R. Leone, II, Esq., '97

Chair, Law Alumni Golf Tournament

Committee



Friday, November 18, 2005

2nd Annual Legal Career Options Day

4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Table Talk

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Reception

School of Law

Bristol Campus

For more information, contact the Office
of Career Services at 401-254-4650.

Upcoming Events for the School
of Law can be found on:
<http://law.rwu.edu/Alumni/Events.htm>

For additional information on
events you may contact the Office
of Alumni, Programs & Events at
401-254-4659 or e-mail
lawevents@rwu.edu.

Marine Affairs Institute Lecture Series

The School of Law proudly presents three events in the Marine Affairs Institute Lecture Series to engage practitioners, researchers, and students in timely issues affecting the oceans and coasts.

**Emerging Issues for the Coasts:
What do we need in an Oceans Champion?**

Friday, September 30, 2005

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Held in conjunction with the Institute for Graduate Environmental Leaders, the address will spur thought and discussion on how to develop leaders for the ocean and coastal community.

**Ecosystem Management & Balancing Uses:
The Marine Transportation System**

Friday, November 4, 2005

9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

With increasing uses in the oceans and coastal zone, the panel of regional experts will provide a primer on the realities and needs of the marine transportation system within the context of a growing demand for ecosystem management measures.

**Ecosystem Management in New England:
An Assessment of Ecosystem Governance Structures**

Friday, March 31, 2006

9:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

This panel of regional and national experts will discuss the existing ocean and coastal governance structures in New England and their effectiveness in advancing ecosystem management for the region. This panel will serve as food for thought for a larger discussion at the Sixth Marine Law Symposium in October 2006 on the Evolution of Ecosystem Management.

All lectures will be held in Room 283 at the School of Law. For more information on the Marine Affairs Institute Lecture Series, please contact marineaffairs@rwu.edu.



Office of Alumni, Programs and Events
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